

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A primary alkaline battery, comprising:
 - a cathode comprising
 - manganese dioxide and
 - carbon particles comprising expanded graphite particles and non-expanded graphite particles, the expanded graphite particles having a kerosene absorption greater than about 3.6 milliliters per gram;
 - an anode;
 - a separator; and
 - an alkaline electrolyte.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Original) The battery of claim 1, wherein the expanded graphite particles have a kerosene absorption greater than about 4.0 milliliters per gram.
5. (Original) The battery of claim 1, wherein the expanded graphite particles have a kerosene absorption greater than about 4.5 milliliters per gram.
6. (Original) The battery of claim 1, wherein the expanded graphite particles have a kerosene absorption greater than about 5.0 milliliters per gram.
7. (Previously Presented) The battery of claim 1, wherein the carbon particles comprise between about 75% and 25% of expanded graphite particles by weight and between about 25% and 75% of non-expanded graphite particles by weight.

8. (Previously Presented) The battery of claim 1, wherein the carbon particles comprise between about 60% and 40% of expanded graphite particles by weight and between about 40% and 60% of non-expanded graphite particles by weight.

9. (Original) The battery of claim 1, wherein the non-expanded graphite particles have an average particle size of less than about 40 microns.

10-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) A primary alkaline battery, comprising:

a cathode comprising

manganese dioxide and

expanded graphite particles having a kerosene absorption greater than

about 4.4 milliliters per gram;

an anode;

a separator; and

an alkaline electrolyte.

29. (Original) The battery of claim 28, wherein the graphite particles have a kerosene absorption between about 5 and about 6 milliliters per gram.

30. (Original) The battery of claim 28, wherein the graphite particles have a kerosene absorption between about 5.2 and about 5.6 milliliters per gram.

31. (Currently Amended) The battery of claim 28, wherein the graphite particles have a kerosene absorption of about 5.4 milliliters per gram.

32. (Original) The battery of claim 28, wherein the cathode comprises between about 2% and about 10% of expanded graphite particles by weight.

33. (Original) The battery of claim 28, wherein the cathode comprises between about 3% and about 6% of expanded graphite particles by weight.

34. (Original) The battery of claim 28, wherein the cathode comprises between about 80% and about 95% of manganese dioxide by weight.

35. (Original) The battery of claim 28, wherein the cathode comprises between about 85% and about 90% of manganese dioxide by weight.

36. (Original) The battery of claim 28, wherein the cathode further comprises non-expanded graphite particles.

37. (Previously Presented) The battery of claim 36, wherein the carbon particles comprise between about 75% and 25% of expanded graphite particles by weight and between about 25% and 75% of non-expanded graphite particles by weight.

38. (Previously Presented) The battery of claim 36, wherein the carbon particles comprise between about 60% and 40% of expanded graphite particles by weight and between about 40% and 60% of non-expanded graphite particles by weight.

39-49. (Cancelled)

50. (Not entered) The battery of claim 22, wherein the expanded graphite particles have a D_{50} particle size that is greater than 50 microns and less than or equal to about 100 microns.